Automated Commercial Environment—Requirements Recommendation

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Requirement

Release: Implement Importer Activity Summary Statement (IASS) to provide an option for aggregate filing of statistical and revenue data (i.e., "rolled-up" data by tariff number or other differentiating variable) for multiple releases on a monthly basis.

The IASS will be a legal entity for many purposes (e.g.,. the summary declaration for a month) for filers who use it. For example, the filing of one IASS will relieve the importer of the obligation to file its summary data. Provided, that if Customs needs to extend for reasons allowed by law (i.e., additional information is needed from the importer/filer), the entire IASS should not be extended. Rather, either via extension or a new reconciliation requested by Customs, only those lines on the IASS with respect to which it has insufficient information to finalize the IASS should remain open (either by entry number for filers that report each release or by aggregate IASS line number for those that summarize monthly import data). In addition, because an IASS will cover an entire month's import activity, multiple protest (and request for reliquidation) issues are likely to abound in a single IASS. For some issues, Customs may be willing to grant a protest, while other issues may be subject to judicial contest. For financial reasons, importers cannot wait for all issues to be resolved and the entire IASS reliquidated. Multiple refunds per IASS must be allowed.

Importers should have flexibility to structure the IASS in the manner that best comports with their business practices (e.g., either by importer number, port, etc.). Multiple IASS's can be filed for a month. This flexibility simplifies the aggregation rules required for an individual IASS.

Business Need

(I)   IASS As Aggregate Monthly Summary Declaration – filers should have the ability to transmit rolled-up data by tariff number/country of origin or other differentiating variable covering activity during all or part of a month, as described below.

(A) IASS versus Entry Summary – To the greatest extent possible the IASS and the Entry Summary will use the same data fields so as to insure uniformity of data treatment within the system. As necessary, as discussed in part below, certain additional fields will be added to differentiate certain subheader and line level data from other subheader and line level data, respectively.

(B) IASS Header versus subheader versus line level

(1) Filer and Surety - The IASS may cover multiple releases transmitted by multiple filers, therefore IASS filer need not match release filers for the IOR. Similar flexible treatment should be available for surety data, when surety for releases and surety for IASS may not match.

(2) Modes of Transportation – One IASS may cover multiple modes. Depending on policy regarding the accumulation of trade statistics, modes may be differentiated at the subheader level.

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[1] Richard M. Belanger, ERP III Letter to Stuart Seidel, April 10, 2001.

(3) Scope of IASS – One IASS may cover national activity, i.e., import at multiple ports of entry. Depending on policy regarding the accumulation of trade statistics, port activity may be differentiated at the subheader level.

(4) Timeframes – One IASS may cover an entire month's import activity and generally, the IASS filing date will be the applicable date for determining rates of duties, fees and taxes in effect. On the other hand, there should be an option to file partial month IASS's, with each respective IASS subject to different effective dates for determining rates of duties, fees and taxes. In the former case of one IASS per month, in some instances a common date will not apply and date sensitivity will be needed at the subheader and line levels, such that one line can be distinguished from another by date range. For example, lines 1 and 2 may both cover tariff #A from country X, however line 1 covers January 1 –15, while line 2 covers January 15 –31, during which time a different rate is in effect.

(5) Flexibility of Data Elements – e.g. Charges/NDC's – Charges incidental to the international shipment of merchandise may be reportable at header, subheader or line level, depending upon policy. These items are specified on the 7501 Data Matrix which will be provided in the near future.

(C) Finality

(1) Extension/Customs Reconciliation – System should provide for means for Customs to isolate one or more IASS lines to create a new and separate record for purposes of extension/Customs reconciliation. All other lines within the IASS would liquidate (become final). Isolated lines would be put on their own liquidation track.

(2) Importer Reconciliation – System should provide means for filer to isolate (flag) one or more IASS lines (on a prospective or retroactive basis) to create a new and separate record for purposes of reconciliation (process by which importer provides additional or corrective information about the merchandise represented by the line at a later date). Depending on policy regarding the scope of reconciliation, the flag for an IASS line or lines may be set at an even more discrete level, issue within a line or lines.

(3) Protests and Requests for Reliquidation – System should provide for possibility that protests and requests for reliquidation will identify subject merchandise/issue by line and not by entire IASS. As in the cases above, a new and separate record will be created. Therefore, the identified lines will be subject to individual consideration and refunds will be issued based on the reliquidation of the individual new record. In the alternative, if policy determinations preclude protest by IASS line, the system should allow for a protest or protests covering multiple IASS lines to be resolved piecemeal, such that refunds can be issued before all protest issues within an IASS are resolved.

(II) IASS As Entry Summary List – Not all IASS's will consist of aggregate monthly data. Rather some filers will file sequentially within an IASS, individual entry summary information for each release during the reference month.

(III) IASS Filing Deadlines – Though policy is to provide for a deadline of 10 days after the reference month, the law allows up to 20 days. System must be flexible enough to permit changes to IASS filing deadline, as law and policy changes occur.

Technical Need

Benefits

Reduce the frequency of transmissions and volume of data transmitted by filers and processed by Customs. Trade would be able to validate data prior to filing and thereby reduce the number of post-

summary adjustments. Trade needs more time to get things right the first time. This would provide efficiencies for Government and Trade. For example, since it is anticipated that major importers will use the IASS, Census will not have to validate so much discrete transactional data. Another benefit will be the netting out of some discrete discrepancies that are not commercial discrepancies at all but are only recognized because of entry summary-by-entry summary filing requirements.

Risks

- System must be capable of accepting data more frequently when required by Congress (e.g., every week for special commodities).

- Impact on Customs and Census telecommunications and computing facilities if everyone sends in data at the same time.

Related Subcommittees

Accounts, Revenue

Priority: **Critical**   ☐   **High**   ☐   **Medium**   ☐   **Low**   ☐